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Fifty-first session
SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION
COMMITTEE (FOURTH COMMITTEE)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Chairman

1. The items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration and report are listed in document A/C.4/51/1. Background information on those items, including references to the related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session (A/51/100). 1/

2. Under rule 99, paragraph (b), of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, each Main Committee "shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item".

3. In pursuance of the above rule, the Committee may wish, for the purpose of planning, to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda. However, the provisional guideline and the order of the consideration of the items will be revised periodically, as appropriate, according to the availability of related documents. In its consideration of specific items, the Committee will also combine other items on its agenda so as to utilize the allocated conference services to the fullest. As indicated below, Conference Services has allocated 31 meetings to the Committee and is urging the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the allotted timetable. Should the Committee wish to change the dates for consideration of items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below. Also, there will be little possibility of servicing informal consultations or working groups, or meetings of regional or other groups of Member States. It is essential that available conference services be utilized to the fullest.

Agenda item	Dates for consideration
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 19)	1 October - p.m. 7 October - a.m. 8 October - a.m. 9 October - a.m./p.m. 10 October - p.m.
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (item 88)	
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination (item 89)	
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 90)	
Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter V (section A)) (item 12)	
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 91)	
Effects of atomic radiation (item 82)	16 October - a.m. 17 October - a.m. 21 October - a.m.
Question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations (item 93)	
The situation in the occupied territories of Croatia (item 92)	22 October - p.m. 23 October - p.m. 28 October - p.m.
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 84)	29 October - a.m. and p.m. 30 October - p.m.
Questions relating to information (item 87)	5 November - p.m. 6 November - p.m. 8 November - a.m.

Agenda item	Dates for consideration
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 83)	11 November - a.m. 12 November - a.m. and p.m. 13 November - p.m.
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 86)	15 November - p.m. 18 November - a.m. 19 November - a.m. 20 November - p.m.
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 85)	22 November - a.m. and p.m. 25 November - p.m. 26 November - a.m. 27 November - a.m.

4. In the preparation of the above timetable, the Chairman was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and bearing in mind the availability of the documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 19, 88, 89, 90 and 12, and 91, and individual debates on agenda items 82 to 87, 92 and 93, it being understood that draft resolutions and/or proposals will be considered separately;

(b) In accordance with established procedure, the General Assembly is expected to take up in plenary meetings the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 19) as a whole following the completion of its consideration of other decolonization items allocated to it and after the Committee has completed that aspect of its work for the session;

(c) The representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items;

(d) Bodies and individuals having an interest in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (item 49) will be heard in the Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.

5. Subject to the above provisional programme of work being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate the work of the Committee, the Chairman wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering its agenda items 19, 88, 89, 90 and 12, and 91, be closed on 7 October at 6 p.m. The Committee will take further decisions relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

6. The Committee wishes also to draw attention to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document A/51/250, section II.B to II.N.

7. Members are also requested to bear in mind a decision adopted by the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. promptly both for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees during the fifty-first session. It was also decided that, as a cost-saving measure, every effort should be made to ensure that plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees adjourn by 6 p.m., and that no meetings be held on weekends (A/51/250, para. 9). Members' attention is also drawn to a decision adopted by the Assembly to waive at this session the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chairman to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see A/51/250, para. 10).

8. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee during the session, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements being made by the spokesmen of groups of delegations, which would be set at 15 minutes.

9. In order to allow the distribution of prepared texts of statements made in the Committee to delegations, specialized agencies, observers, interpreters and record-writers, 300 copies are required. A minimum of 30 copies should be given in advance of delivery of the statement, in order to help the Secretariat to provide the best possible service.

Notes

1/ For the final list of items adopted by the General Assembly, see document A/51/251.